



We have all heard, with unspeakable sadness, that the American Board have felt obliged, for the coming year, to appropriate fifty thousand dollars less than the estimate given by the missionaries, and twenty thousand dollars less than the appropriations of last year. Many will say, "This is well. The four hundred and fifty thousand dollars they still raise is a large sum : better not be complaining of a debt every year." Ah ! but do they realize what this retrenchment means? Do they know, that, if this must be, two hundred native helpers will be obliged to leave the good news untold, the dark homes unvisited, the lost sheep unsought? that four thousand scholars in our Christian schools, lambs whom Christ said "Feed," must be sent back to their dark homes unfed, not saved? Will the Christian people of America like to meet those four thousand souls at Christ's judgment-seat, and hear that loving, reproachful voice say, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to them, ye did it not to me"?

II. Have we a right to walk by faith in making our estimates of work?

To a certain extent, this must be done. Our appropriations are made at the beginning of the year, relying only on pledges made by our branches and auxiliaries. Shall we take as our basis the amount that has previously been given, allowing no enlargement in our work? Or trusting in Him whose is the silver and the gold, and who holdeth the hearts of men in his hand, shall we expect such an amount as, in our wisest, most prayerful judgment, the interests of his cause demand? Has not the past history of this society, though a brief one, given great encouragement in this? When the little handful of Christian women, with much prayer, organized this Woman's Board, they had no pledged support from the churches, no army of co-laborers, as now, to stand beside them; but like the ministering women from Galilee, who stood looking at the cross, and at him who hung thereon, they remembered his saying, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." In the years since then, they have been trying to lift him up before the veiled eyes of women in Turkey and in India, before the degraded ones of Africa, of China, and of the islands of the sea; and, while he has been drawing these darkened souls to himself, has he not, also, been wonderfully blessing the workers at home?

At the first annual meeting, the treasurer reported as the year's income five thousand dollars : to-day we report \$74,858.93. Instead of the one parent society, we to-day welcome twelve branches,

each with its large family of auxiliaries and mission-circles. On the foreign field, instead of seven missionaries, our hearts embrace fifty-six, with their noble band of Bible-women and native helpers. Our work has been progressive: shall we stop here lest we extend it unduly? Shall we not, rather, while acknowledging thankfully that "hitherto hath the Lord helped us," listen to the voice that said, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward"?

While the past history of this society encourages us to a life of faith, the word of our God is a still surer reliance. Our trust is not in ourselves, but in Him who will have the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. For our future needs, we plant ourselves on his sure word of promise, and have faith in God,—not the inactive faith, which says, "He will provide for his own cause, we need do nothing," but the loving trust, which, having done its best, waits confidently on the Mighty One of Israel. Is it not because he knows our weakness and unbelief, that, when he commanded his people to go forward, he so often added his royal promise?

When the great company of Hebrew slaves were led out into the desert, the assurance came, "My presence shall go with thee." When they stood before the promised land, and were told to enter in and possess it, the same voice said, "The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, and bless all the work of thine hand." When Cyrus was anointed to subdue nations, the strong word came, "I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight. I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in pieces the bars of iron."

So when, from the ascending Lord, came the royal commission, "Go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," was not all help, all wisdom, all supply, pledged in the promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world"?

"Oh, when his wisdom can mistake,  
His might decay, his love forsake,  
Then may his children cease to sing,  
The Lord omnipotent is King."

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THE silver is mine and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.



## HOW SHE LEFT HER KNIFE-PLEATING.

BY MRS. HELEN C. KNIGHT.

“How shall we make our auxiliary-meetings interesting?” ask the officers of our auxiliaries again and again. A more personal question may solve it.

“‘How can I contribute to the interest of the meetings?’ I honestly asked myself that question a year ago,” said one who was not an officer, “and received a surprising answer.”

“What was it?” I asked.

“‘Be sure and contribute your presence,’ said Conscience. ‘Plan to go. Do not forget the meeting. Do not let small hindrances keep you away. Show yourself.’”

“I had a dress-maker that day,” she went on to say, “and a quantity of knife-pleating had to be done. Could I leave it?”

“‘Do not let your religious engagements be only kept as the fag-end of all other things,’ said Conscience again. ‘Leave your knife-pleating, and go. Do you seriously believe in prayer? Do you consider that God’s kingdom is coming in the world only through your *small* fidelities? Will people be brought to Christ, if you make this work only a supplement to what suits your convenience? Will you ever be a growing Christian, unless you make sacrifices for his sake? Who believes you in earnest?’”

“‘I will go,’ I said, rising from my chair, ‘and let the knife-pleating take care of itself. My business this hour, I see, is at the meeting, to pray for a lost world.’”

“I cannot tell you how the determination strengthened me. I went with alacrity. There were only four of us out of thirty members. ‘Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?’ I asked humbly and quietly. He gave me the spirit of prayer. I always shrank from hearing my own voice before. I was self-conscious in audible prayer. As I knelt there then, with the two or three, to claim the promise of his presence, my soul went out as it never did before. I forgot myself. I prayed from the depths of the heart, ‘O Lord, revive thy work in me, in us.’”

“It was a new meeting, a precious meeting. The spirit of missions, which is the spirit of love, of yearning, of sacrifice, of privilege, filled the room. ‘It was good to be there.’”

She said much more; but this is enough for my point. There was no dry meeting to her after that. The secret of making them interesting resides within ourselves. Can we not contribute our presence? Can we not make an effort to go? Can we not bring

a devout and prayerful spirit? Can we not try to make very real to us what this branch of church-work is, what the spirit of missions means, what it has done and is doing, what sacrifices it asks of us, what privileges it confers upon us, and what opportunities it puts into our power?

I am sure the time has come when we must surrender a great deal of knife-pleating, and many things of subordinate account, in order to see and to seize the opportunities, both of growth and of work, which God opens to us on every side.

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### SUGGESTIONS.

THE first Circular of our New-York State Branch contains the following suggestions, that may be of service to other branches and auxiliaries.

1. It is desirable to form a Woman's Missionary Society auxiliary to the Branch, as far as practicable in every church. To accomplish this, it would be well for the vice-presidents and their assistants to divide the labor of correspondence; and a *personal visit* to the churches of their association would do good.

2. To promote the objects in view, it would be desirable to hold Women's Missionary Meetings in connection with the meetings of the local associations.

3. Let no church feel itself, or be regarded by others, as too weak to contribute, and let no donation be deemed too small to be secured. Remember the widow's two mites, and Christ's saying. One has truly remarked, "What we can do for God is little or nothing; but we must do our little nothings for his glory."

4. Nothing will do so much to advance the object in view as the dissemination of information. Take, and get others to take, the little magazine of the Woman's Board, called "Life and Light."

5. Do not think this an unimportant work. The Woman's Board of Mission raised \$51,256, between Jan. 1, and Oct. 1, 1875. The Woman's Cent Societies of New Hampshire have raised between \$70,000 and \$80,000 since they were commenced many years ago.

6. A State Branch, or an Auxiliary, will not, even when fully organized, "run itself." Officers alone cannot run it. Money will not run it. Nothing but *hard work*, forethought, time, prayer, labor, will do it.

## WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS FROM NOV. 18, TO DEC. 18, 1875.

MRS. BENJAMIN E. BATES, TREASURER.

## MAINE.

<i>Maine Branch.</i> —Mrs. Woodbury S. Dana, Treas., Waterville Aux., \$27.54; South Bridgton, Aux., \$6; S. S., \$7; Bangor, Aux., \$10; Bethel 1st Ch., Aux., with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Mrs. Nahum W. Grover, \$9.50; North Yarmouth, "Walnut Hill Workers," with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Mrs. E. C. Morrill, \$22; Searsport, Aux., \$9,		\$91 04
<i>Bingham.</i> —A friend,	40	
<i>Portland.</i> —A friend,	1 00	
<i>Waldoborough.</i> —Aux.,	16 50	
<i>Wells.</i> —Mrs. B. A. Maxwell,	20 00	
Total,	\$128 94	

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

<i>New Hampshire Branch.</i> —Miss Abby E. McIntire, Treas., Hampton, Aux., \$15; Hanover, Aux., \$50; Portsmouth, Aux., \$38.50,		\$103 50
Total,	\$103 50	

*C. Home Building-Fund.*

<i>New Hampshire Branch.</i> —Amherst, Miss L. R. Clark, with prev. contri. to const. L. M. Miss L. G. Clark, for Mary Lyon Room, \$12; Reed's Ferry, Aux., for two shelves in library, \$20,		\$32 00
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## VERMONT.

<i>Vermont Branch.</i> —Mrs. Geo. H. Fox, Treas., Bennington, Aux., \$21.30; Northfield, Aux., \$8; East Poultney, Aux., \$15.60; Cornwall, Aux., \$35.20; Colchester, Aux., \$15; Peacham, Aux., of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Miss Emmeline Wallace, Barnett, \$50; Bridport, Aux. (of wh. \$50 to const. L. M.'s Mrs. W. W. Winchester, Mrs. George Paine, \$25 by Mrs. Sarah W. Fletcher to const. herself L. M., \$25 by Mrs. L. M. Hayward to const. herself L. M.), \$105; Dorset, Aux., of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Miss Marcia Gray, \$42; Burlington, Aux., \$18; Rutland, Aux., \$41.28; Newbury, Aux., \$18.70; Hartford, Aux., \$12; Royalton, Aux., \$16.75, with prev. contri. of		
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Miss Sarah L. Crossman to const. herself L. M.,	\$398 83
<i>North Craftsbury.</i> —Mrs. Deborah W. Loomis, to const. L. M. Mrs. Mary A. Paddock,	25 00
<i>Norwich.</i> —A gentleman, in memory of his wife,	2 00
<i>Rutland.</i> —A thank offering, A. L. O.,	10 00
Total,	\$435 83

## MASSACHUSETTS.

<i>Abington.</i> —Aux., for school in Mana Madura,		\$47 00
<i>Attleborough.</i> —A friend,	5 00	
<i>Barre.</i> —Aux., to const. L. M. Mrs. Edwin Smith,	25 00	
<i>Berlin.</i> —Catherine Larkin, \$2; a friend, 40 cts.,	2 40	
<i>Boston.</i> —Miss E. A. Nickerson, \$2; Central Ch., \$236; Berkeley-st. Ch., Family Missionary Concert, \$2.40; Ladies' monthly contri., \$4.15; Shawmut Ch., Aux. (of wh. \$25 by Mrs. Whittemore to const. L. M., Mrs. Stephen J. Metcalf, Medway; Mrs. A. D. Webber, \$25; Mrs. John Gilbert, \$10; Mrs. Stephen Emery, \$5; Mrs. Galloupe, \$5), \$195.50; Trinity Ch., E. F. C., \$20; a friend, \$10,	470 05	
<i>Boston Highlands.</i> —Eliot Ch., \$10; a friend, \$1,	11 00	
<i>Bradford.</i> —Fem. Sem.,	15 00	
<i>Braintree.</i> —Miss L. A. Wilde,	25 00	
<i>Chatham.</i> —Ladies of Cong. Ch.,	5 00	
<i>Clinton.</i> —Aux.,	16 00	
<i>Deerfield.</i> —Aux.,	15 25	
<i>Easthampton.</i> —A friend,	80	
<i>Grantville.</i> —Sallie, Fannie, and Helen,	5 00	
<i>Hingham.</i> —"Money-Plants,"	5 00	
<i>Ipswich.</i> —Caldwell Mission-Circle, to const. L. M. Miss Jennie Howe, \$25; a friend, to const. L. M. Mrs. Lydia Wade, \$25,	50 00	
<i>Lawrence.</i> —Mrs. Benj. Cooledge, \$18.80; Central Ch., \$60,	78 80	
<i>Lee.</i> —Young Ladies Mission-Circle, pupil Miss Payson's sch.,	40 00	
<i>Lowell.</i> —Central Ch., add'l,	2 00	
<i>Medway.</i> —"Medway Gleaners,"	5 00	
<i>Melrose.</i> —Aux.,	48 08	
<i>Middleborough.</i> —Mary S. Washburn's S. S. class,	2 00	
<i>Milton.</i> —1st Ch., S. S. penny col.,	34 65	
<i>New Bedford.</i> —Aux., for Mrs. Andrus's salary,	340 00	
<i>Newburyport.</i> —Aux.,	60 00	

<i>Newton.</i> — Aux., to const. L. M.'s Mrs. D. R. Emerson, Mrs. S. M. Freeland,	\$50 00
<i>North Weymouth.</i> — Arthur M. Dow, \$1; Miss R. H. Nash, \$1.25; Geo. H. French, \$1,	3 25
<i>Pittsfield.</i> — Aux., Richmond, Mrs. Henry C. Brown,	5 00
<i>Raynham.</i> — Mrs. M. W. Mann,	1 50
<i>Reading.</i> — Aux.,	8 00
<i>Sandwich.</i> — Aux.,	10 00
<i>Shelburne.</i> — Cong. Ch.,	8 07
<i>Southampton.</i> — Aux.,	28 50
<i>Southbridge.</i> — Mrs. S. M. Lane,	5 00
<i>South Egremont.</i> — Aux.,	30 00
<i>Springfield Branch.</i> — Miss H. T. Buckingham, Treas., Springfield Memorial Ch., of wh. \$25 by Mrs. D. B. Wesson to const. L. M. Miss C. A. Brackett, \$31.83; "Memorial Band," \$17.78; Mrs. Hooker's Bible cl., \$15; South Ch., \$21.26; "Little Sunbeams," \$40; "Wide Awakes," \$11.37; Young Ladies' Mission, \$5.28; 1st Ch., \$5.50; "Cheerful Givers," \$8; Mission-Circle No. 1, \$5; Sanford-st. Ch., \$11.12; "Young Missionaries," \$25; Olivet Ch., of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. G. E. Kilbon, \$45; North Ch., \$62; Holyoke, 2d Ch., \$107.16; "Merry Workers," \$40; Palmer, 2d Ch., \$20.90; Ludlow, Cong. Ch., \$33.85; Wilbraham, Cong. Ch., \$10; Agawam, Cong. Ch., \$1.50; Monson, Cong. Ch., \$5,	569 55
<i>Wareham.</i> — Aux.,	15 00
<i>Wayland.</i> — Aux.,	10 00
<i>West Brookfield.</i> — Cong. Ch., Young People's cl. pupil, Oodenville,	30 00
<i>Westhampton.</i> — "Children's Miss'y Soc.,"	6 61
<i>West Medway.</i> — Aux., of wh. \$5 by Mrs. Chas. H. Deans,	6 00
<i>Weymouth.</i> — Mrs. H. J. Holbrook, \$3; Helen P. Vickery, \$30,	33 00
<i>Wrentham.</i> — Miss Alice S. Warren's S. S. cl.,	5 00
<i>Worcester.</i> — Woman's Miss'y Asso., Miss Fannie W. Sweetser, Tr. (Old So. Ch., \$61.08; Central Ch., \$22; Salem-st. Ch., \$36.10; Plymouth Ch., \$65.49; other sources, \$1.29), \$185.93; Central Ch., young ladies, of wh. \$25 towards the Japan Home, \$35 for work in Japan,	245 96
<i>Winchester.</i> — Aux.,	24 00
<i>Yarmouth.</i> — Aux.,	5 00
Total,	\$2,416 47

*C. Home Building-Fund.*

*Boston.* — Central Ch., Mrs. W. O. Grover, for dormitory called

Frederic Fitch Conant, \$200; Mrs. B. E. Bates, \$50; Shawmut Ch., "Shawmut Helpers," of wh. \$25 by Mrs. Mary L. Leland to const. herself L.M., for library, \$350; Shawmut Mission Branch, for dormitory, \$200,	\$800 00
<i>Medway.</i> — Aux., towards dormitory,	40 00
<i>Salem.</i> — Tabernacle Ch., Aux., towards dormitory,	25 00
<i>Springfield Branch.</i> — Sanford-st. Ch. Mite-Box,	9 00

RHODE ISLAND.

<i>Rhode Island Branch.</i> — Miss Anna T. White, Treas., Providence, Pilgrim Ch., \$80.50; Central Ch., "The Willing Hands," to const. L.M.'s Mrs. Jacob Simonds, Mrs. Edward P. Taft, Mrs. Philip Matheson, Mrs. James C. Kimball, \$100; Beneficent Ch., of wh. \$25 by Mrs. Newell Clark to const. L. M. Miss Sallie R. Vose, \$86.08; "Elmwood Workers," \$10.88; Charles-st. Ch., \$41; contents of children's miss'y box, \$3.25; North Scituate, toward sch. in Bitlis, \$25; Tiverton Aux., \$10; Slatersville, Aux., \$10; Little Compton, Aux., \$10,	\$376 71
Total,	\$376 71

*C. Home Building-Fund.*

<i>Rhode Island Branch.</i> — Providence, Central Ch., "The Little Kings," for shelf in library, \$10; Beneficent Ch., "The Little Wilkensions," for shelf in library, \$10; Central Falls, "The Little Sunbeams," towards dormitory, \$15,	\$35 00
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CONNECTICUT.

<i>Darien.</i> — Aux., for two pupils in Inanda Sem'y,	\$60 00
<i>Hartford Branch.</i> — Mrs. Chas. A. Jewell, Treas., Hebron, Aux., of wh. \$25 to const. L. M. Mrs. L. P. Hubbard,	37 65
<i>Hartford.</i> — A friend,	90 00
<i>New Haven Branch.</i> — Miss Julia Twining, Treas., Canaan, to complete p'y't for pupil at Ceylon, \$5; Cheshire, to complete p'y't for B. R. Samathanani, \$25; Danbury, towards Mrs. De Forest's salary, \$134.83; East Haddam, fr. Mrs. Reed, to const. L. M. Miss Elizabeth Reed, \$25; East Haven, \$20.50; Easton, to const. L. M. Mrs. Julia Edwards, \$25; Killingworth, \$8.15; Litchfield, \$14 30; Madison, sale of "Algae Al-	



bum," offered at the annual meeting by a lover of the cause, \$5; Madison "Willing Hearts" (of wh. \$50 to const. L. M.'s Miss Ida W. M. Hill and Miss Lizzie B. Lee; \$30, p'y't for pupil at Madura; the remainder towards another L.M.-ship), \$91.50; Middletown, First Ch. (of wh. \$30 fr. a lady to pay for pupil at Ahmednuggur, and to const. L. M. Miss Mary A. Birdsey; \$5 fr. Miss Marianna Clark towards L. M.-ship, to be applied, with the remaining \$5, to sch. near Aintab), \$40; Milton, \$10; New Britain Centre Ch., \$101.50; New Haven Centre Ch. (of wh. \$10 fr. Mrs. Wooster Hotchkiss towards support of a B. R. at Harpoot, \$10 fr. Mrs. E. C. Seranton towards support of a B. R. at Madura, \$30 fr. Mrs. Leonard Bradley and Mrs. W. I. Townsend to support B. R. at Harpoot, \$50 fr. Mrs. Samuel Miller and Mrs. Ezekiel H. Trowbridge to const. themselves L. M.'s), \$345; College-St. Ch., \$18; Davenport Ch. (of wh. \$40 to support Zarnig), \$82; Fair Haven First Ch. (of wh. \$25 fr. Mrs. Burdett Hart to const. L. M. Miss Julia Twinning), \$50; North Ch., \$45.50; Third Ch., \$52.50; Yale College Ch. for Con. Home sch'ship, \$134.25; New Milford, fr. Mr. Rufus S. Leavitt, to const. L. M. Mrs. Leavitt, \$25; Newtown, \$10; Norfolk, \$35.35; Redding, \$13.85; Salisbury, \$20.12; South Britain, \$19; West Haven Oak Hill Sem., to support pupil at Ahmednuggur, \$30; Westport, \$10; West Winsted, \$28, \$1,424 35

*New London Co. Branch.* — Mrs. Jane E. Learned, Treas., Norwich, Broadway Ch., \$98.05; Park Ch. (of wh. \$100 by Mrs. Harriet P. Williams to const. L.M.'s Mrs. Laura S. Thurston, Mrs. Isaac Johnson, Miss Emily Gilman, Miss S. A. W. Blackman; \$25 by Mrs. L. F. S. Foster to const. L.M. Mrs. Chas. C. Johnson), \$200; New London, First Ch., \$64, 362 05

Total, \$1,884 95

*C. Home Building-Fund.*

*West Meriden.* — First Cong. Ch., for dormitory, \$200 00

NEW YORK.

*New York City.* — Mrs. L. H. Valentine, \$5 00

*Penn Yan.* — Mrs. C. C. Sheppard, \$25 00  
*Pike.* — Mrs. A. R. Sherrill, 1 00  
 Total, \$31 00

*C. Home Building-Fund.*

*Albany.* — First Cong. Ch., for dormitory called Sarah Smart, \$93 00

PENNSYLVANIA.

*Philadelphia Branch.* — Mrs. A. W. Goodell, Treas., Mont Clair, N.J., Aux., \$84.80; "Blossoms," for Miss Gouldy, \$227.32; Newark, N.J., First Ch., Aux., \$117.45; "Workers for Jesus," for Mrs. Chapin's sch., \$64.25; Orange, N.J., Aux., to const. L. M. Mrs. J. L. Halsey, \$25; Baltimore, Md., Aux., \$7.80; Philadelphia, Central Ch., Aux., Mrs. M. Heaton, \$10.50; "Snowflakes," for Miss Gouldy, \$5, \$544 12

Total, \$544 12

VIRGINIA.

*Poplar Mount.* — Little Georgy, gone before, \$1 00  
 Total, \$1 00

OHIO.

*Millan.* — Presb. S. S., towards pupil Mrs. Bissell's sch., \$7 00  
*Stuebenville.* — Frankie Tenney's miss'y box, 75  
*Windham.* — Young Ladies' Mission-Band, 65 50  
 Total, \$73 25

MICHIGAN.

*Northville.* — A friend, \$ 40  
 Total, \$ 40

MINNESOTA.

*Chatfield.* — Presb. S. S., for Gita, Mrs. Bissell's sch., \$22 00  
*Excelsior.* — Arthur, Justin, George, and Mary Dickenson, toward sch. in Bardasag, 1 50  
 Total, \$23 50

General Funds, \$6,010 67  
 C. Home Building-Fund, 1,234 00  
 "Life and Light," 1,198 25  
 "Echoes," 6 07  
 Weekly Pledge, 12 74  
 Leaflets, 3 32  
 Total, \$8,465 05

MISS EMMA CARRUTH, *Asst. Treas.*



# Department of the Interior.

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## DAKOTA.

Our readers will be interested in these letters from our new missionaries to Dakota, who left for that field in October, after the meeting of the American Board.

### JOURNEYING WESTWARD.

BY MISS COLLINS.

SANTEE AGENCY, NEB., Oct. 23, 1875.

WE started from Iowa City on Monday, Oct. 18, remaining over night in Council Bluffs. On Tuesday forenoon we went on to Missouri Junction, meeting the Riggs families there at eight o'clock. Oh, how glad we were to meet them! for we were beginning to realize that we were approaching the frontier. In Council Bluffs we rode from the hotel to the depot in the omnibus with the sheriff and two prisoners, on their way to the penitentiary; and, in the depot at Missouri Junction, the first notice which greeted our eyes was, in flaming letters, "\$50 reward for the body of," &c., naming some missing man: so you can partly realize how we felt when we met our friends. We took dinner in Sioux City, and were from two o'clock till half-past eight riding from there to Yankton. The ride all day Monday and Tuesday was delightful. The weather was fine; and it seems to me, that in no other place does the sun shine so brightly as in Dakota. When we arrived in Yankton, we found "no more boats up river." We remained until Wednesday, to see if Mr. Riggs could prevail on them to send one up, but in vain. We found Yankton a most beautiful and pleasant little town, situated on as level a plain as can be imagined. The people are very refined and cultured. The Merchants Hotel is as fine a hotel as we find this side of Chicago, well kept, and the people kind and obliging.

We left there on Thursday morning, and came out here to the Santee Agency, with Mr. Alfred Riggs, to remain until Mr. Thomas Riggs can arrange for us to go to Sully overland. We rode about fifteen miles over a vast prairie, with not even a shrub nor a single tree, no shade to stop under to eat dinner, and the sun

beating down as only Dakota sun can in October, — almost like a July day. My eyes ached with the intense light, and with gazing so far into the distance. We rode on about ten miles farther, and came to a small stream. How good it seemed to see even the brush and a few trees and water! Even a small rise in the ground was a welcome change after riding so long over a surface as smooth as a floor. The roads are in excellent order; could not be better.

We arrived at the Missouri River about dark. For miles and miles before we reached it, we could see beyond it, where the mission-buildings ought to be; but it seemed as if these hills and prairies were a solid flame of fire.

Mrs. Riggs grew quite nervous; and they both said, that always before, on reaching this point, they could see their buildings; but now they did not know but they were burned. The smoke was so dense, that nothing could be seen but tongues of fire, and line after line climbing the hills, running along the bottom, and leaping over the prairies. To me it seemed as one large city, stretching miles and miles away, all on fire. You can hardly imagine the feelings of this family when no sign of their home could be discovered, when those dear to them were there, and that mother knew that her babe was in the midst of this fire. But no word of complaint escaped them. Now and then I ventured to ask a question, such as, "Where should your buildings be?" Mr. Riggs said, "They ought to be there, right between those streaks of fire; but, for the smoke, I can hardly tell. They may be farther. I hope the Indians have burned around them."

Mrs. Riggs says, "Alfred, could you drive a little faster? You know the river lies before us; and, if we do not get there before dark, we cannot cross." She said, "I told the girls, if the houses were burned, they must take out my baby first, and Mr. Riggs's papers next." Now we came to the river. A small craft is awaiting us. We all alight from the wagons; and, as the boat is small, they unhitch the horses, and roll the wagons on, and lead the horses so they can stand beside them. Then they procure a skiff. Mr. Thomas Riggs, and the two Mrs. Riggs and their children, get into that. An Indian guides the other boat, and a buffalo robe is thrown down for us to sit upon. Miss Whipple and I sit in the back-part of the boat; and in the darkness we start to float over into the "ocean of flame." And now, for the first time in my life, could I literally apply that beautiful text, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they

shall not overflow thee: through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour." As we neared the shore, we came upon a sand-bar; and the Indian, "Bob," had to get out, and wade the rest of the way, pulling the boat after him. He informed us that the fire had been raging about the mission-buildings, but he did not think they were burned.

We were obliged to change our course on account of the fire, and go around the hill. As we crossed the bottom, we were thankful, that, although the flames were approaching, we could cross before they reached us. Two miles farther, and now we come near enough to see. With a feeling of relief and joy we all exclaim, "The Home is safe!" We found that the Indians had worked faithfully all the afternoon, setting back-fires, and fighting the flames, to save the mission. The little girls from the school carried water for them to drink while they fought the flames. We find the Home so cheerful and attractive, that we are indeed glad to rest here a few days.

I cannot resist speaking of the good work the Riggs family has accomplished here. Yesterday morning several Indians came in, dressed in citizen's clothes, taking off their hats at the door, and bowing politely as they entered. Receiving introductions to us, they shook hands, although they were quite silent. We were delighted to see their politeness, and seeming gladness on seeing Mr. Riggs. The girls in the Home are nice-looking, and well behaved. I saw two quite small ones at work very nicely, — one setting table, the other sweeping the dining-room. Mr. Riggs has excellent discipline, and the Indians seem quite attached to him.

All about us are log-houses, and most of them with a wigwam near by. Yesterday we went with Miss Haines over to the government houses, to the "Issue." They were issuing the dry-goods for the year. Oh, what a sight! — Indians of all ages, sizes, and character. Here are the girls from the mission, in neat calico dresses, with hats on. (Quite a point is gained, if you can prevail upon them to wear a hat or bonnet.) Here is a chief in clothes just like the white men near. Here is a young mother with her smiling infant on her back; and there a dark, hard-looking man, with a pipe in his mouth. Yes, one side was a pipe; but underneath was a tomahawk. The handle was quite long, and, doubtless, very stout. There sits an old squaw. She prefers the ground; and, near where there has been a fire, she sits and plays in the black ashes. Some old shoes on her feet, — no, not shoes, moccasins, — black leggings, a short

black skirt, and an old sack scarcely covering her body ; her uncombed hair streaming over her face. She digs and scratches among the ashes ; then scratches her head ; now her hand in her face, and again in the dirt. Soon her goods are given her, — nice blue linsey, some red flannel, calico, a pair of stout shoes, two pair of hose, and some heavy sheeting. She tosses them over and over, drags them through the dirt, tries to fold them again, and finally takes her old shawl off, tumbles them all in, and off she goes with them on her back, an old pine stick in her hand as she hobbles home. Who could look upon such a being as that, just ready to pass into eternity, and not shudder ?

But look at the younger ones. Some of them are well dressed (all of them comfortably so), their faces clean, hair nicely braided ; and they sit on boxes, seeming quite proud of their clean dresses.

Mr. Riggs brought each of the girls a pair of small scissors. They are very happy. These girls wear their hair cut short, combed nicely, and plain, neat dresses, and good shoes and stockings. I see no reason why they cannot be educated, and make good useful *ladies*. We are pleased with the prospect ; and although, in our home at Fort Sully, the Indians are far behind these, yet we are hopeful. The Lord has evidently meant we should come here, and has led us thus far safely, and we can trust him to lead us home.

We start on next week, and shall be nearly two weeks on the way.

#### LETTER FROM MRS. CURTIS.

SISSETON AGENCY, Nov. 20, 1875.

My postal-card would inform you of my safe arrival here: so I will now tell you in a few words what I have been doing. I first set out to study Dakota, but had to give it up for a time; for, as soon as the Indian women found out what I had come for, they brought me all their fall work to cut; so I was kept quite busy for the first two weeks.

I have visited five families, taught four of them to make light bread and yeast, to knit, and crochet. I have formed three classes. On Thursday, at two, I go to the Dakota church, and have a class of old women, whom I teach to knit, sew, and crochet; and one woman brought a quilt to be quilted. We have worked on it four afternoons, but have not yet completed it, as she wants it quilted *very nice*, and I have not much time to quilt, for there is almost always some cutting to be done.



My second class is after Mr. Morris's school closes, every day, when I teach the girls for one hour. My third is at the Manual Labor Boarding-School building, where I have a very interesting class of twenty-three girls on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from two till five, P.M. Four of the girls make clothes for the little ones; but I must do the cutting, and teach them how to make them. The rest knit, except three, who are too small to do any thing.

On Saturdays, I have gone to the Agency to see a family who are trying to keep a boarding-house for the Indian laborers at the Agency. The woman does not know any thing about housekeeping; but she is very anxious to learn; and she makes quite nice bread now. The first time I went down, I had her clean the table and floor, and clean every thing. So now, every time I go there, without my saying any thing, she does the same. Once a week her house is clean. I hope, in time, she will do it without my being there, for the sake of being clean. As "cleanliness is next to godliness," I try to teach them that first; and, when I can talk, I will try to teach them godliness.

At odd minutes I have crocheted thirteen pairs of wristlets, to be sold for the Ladies' Missionary Society they have formed here. Six pair were sold for seventy-five cents a pair, and seven pair at fifty cents a pair. Mrs. Morris furnished yarn for seven pair; and, from the price of the remaining six pair, two dollars must be deducted for the yarn, leaving, in all, six dollars. As the weather is too cold for visiting, I will go to school to Mr. Morris in the morning, and teach my classes in the afternoon. That is all I hope to do this winter.

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## JAPAN.

### LETTER FROM MISS DUDLEY.

KOBE, Sept. 1, 1875.

OUR summer, with its heat and drought, is past: after ninety days, rain has fallen. The farmers have had prayer-meetings for rain, but conducted in a novel manner. About two thousand people assembled last sabbath evening, with torches, bells, conch-shells, and drum, and marched round the reservoirs, where the water is kept which feeds the rice-fields, calling on the god of rain (a dragon supposed to inhabit the reservoir) to "send rain,

that rice may be cheap." This has been kept up for several nights, and rain has come. I am sure the dear God sends when he is not supplicated; and the rain falls on the just and on the unjust.

On the 27th of July our church in Sanda was formed; when nine women and seven men confessed Christ, and received baptism in the presence of more than two hundred persons. The women were nearly all past the prime of life, three only being young married women. It was a very happy day for us all, and *my* cup ran over. Nearly the entire church from Kobe were present, with a delegate from Osaca; and it is beautiful to see how these Christians seem drawn together. These churches are indeed light-houses, — cities set upon hills.

Our work is by no means confined to the women; for the men, too, pay respectful attention. In one place the teacher of a school of over a hundred pupils — a fine, energetic young man, but, like all others, addicted to drink — said to me a few weeks ago, "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you have said to me. I have stopped every thing which I know would displease Christ, and am ready to do any thing he would have me." I had talked with him often of his example and responsibility as a teacher, even until I thought he was angry with me; but God's Spirit had fixed the truth in his heart, and now I believe he is a Christian. Miss Talcott and I could tell of many others God has helped us to reach; and, though it may seem like glorying, I am sure it is but right you should know how wide our field is.

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#### ARRIVAL.

Mrs. COFFING, Miss Hollister, and Miss Spencer landed at Alexandretta, Sept. 28, and, on account of the prevalence of cholera, spent the first night in Balan, nine miles up the mountains. Miss Hollister and the other missionaries for Aintab remained to work in Balan and Kessab until the scourge should abate, while Mrs. Coffing and Miss Spencer went on to Marsh. Finding that there were still many cases of cholera in the city, and that it was followed by a malignant fever, they left for Kerhan, in the mountains, the same day, where they expected to remain until the danger was over. They were well, and rejoicing in the "kindness of the Father all the way."

## AFRICA.

## LETTER FROM MISS PINKERTON.

(Concluded.)

. . . ON our way to Inanda, we stopped at the old station of Mr. Lindley, a spot where he lived for a time, but afterwards came to this place, his church coming with him. Two broken walls mark the place of the house, proof that time destroys all things earthly. But the spot is venerated and loved by all the mission-circle, principally because the devoted Mr. Bryant found his last resting-place there. We ate our lunch by the side of his grave, and talked and thought of his useful though short sojourn in this land of his adoption.

The dinner-hour found us at Inanda, where the Girls' Seminary is located.

Monday morning I shall leave here on my homeward way, and mail this in Durban. It has been very rainy for two days, and now the showers follow each other rapidly, making it quite unpleasant for the people who are gathered here to attend the meetings. It is very interesting to see the new chapel packed full of comfortably dressed natives eagerly listening to the words of Scripture and to sound, sensible remarks from their own pastors and church-members. How glorious it would be to have God's Holy Spirit fall upon them in showers as they are gathered here! Their own hearts would be fired and quickened; and they would go home to exert an influence which could not be resisted. But "God's ways are not as our ways;" and no doubt, in his great wisdom, he sees we are not ready for so great a blessing. Pray that we all, teachers and taught, may be drawn nearer to him, and ourselves made fit temples for the indwelling of the Spirit: thus our lives shall not be spent in vain. I have visited the Inanda Falls since I came here, and stood beside the fall itself,—in behind the flowing water, on a shelf of rock. I am told that they are three hundred feet in height; and they are in a very wild, romantic spot. I also went into a very large cave of massive rock, about halfway down the precipice. It was a long climb, but well repaid the trouble. . .

I am hoping to commence a new school-building at Umzumbi before the year is gone, and shall hope to have the means to make it attractive and comfortable. When it is done, I will tell you about it. I wish I could have money in abundance for a little while, there are so many ways in which I need it to use.

## MEXICO.

## EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM MRS. WATKINS.

GUADALAJARA, Nov. 12, 1875.

OUR work is extending, and enlarging its borders. Besides Guadalajara, we are working, directly or indirectly, in from forty to fifty other towns and villages; and "the end is not yet." Well may the Catholics fear our inroads, and threaten us with every evil, even with death itself. God rules, and his shall be the victory.

Our church here numbers ninety-one members; and we hope on next Christmas to receive others into the fold. Very few of our members have proved unfaithful; while many give evidence of a rich Christian experience. They have many obstacles to surmount, and are sorely persecuted; but they remain steadfast in the truth that has set them free.

One of our members, a poor man, is employed by the church as their missionary; and he walks from town to town, and from village to village, selling and distributing tracts, papers, Bibles, and Testaments, and telling the people of the way of salvation. His heart is wholly enlisted in the work; and, although in constant danger, he says, "Christ goes before me, leading the way: why should I fear?"

A great work has also been begun in Leon, a city larger than Guadalajara, by one of our members, also a poor man. He has not been instructed in the schools, but has natural shrewdness, and has been enabled to do much since being enlightened by the Holy Spirit. He has been called to answer for the hope that is in him by the archbishop, one of the most fanatical Catholic rulers in the country. He answered as only a Christian could answer; and the archbishop, though accustomed to consider the poor as slaves, treated him like a gentleman. Thus Christianity makes itself felt even among its worst enemies. Pray for us, that the good seed may bring forth yet more abundantly.

## LARKSPUR.

DURING the meeting of the American Board in October, a little bag of larkspur-seed was modestly placed upon our table, in response to Mrs. Coffing's request. We know not whom to thank for it, but have an idea that it came from Michigan, and hope the good example will be followed.



## Home Department.

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### YANKTON WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

[The following Report having come too late for use at Elyria, we give it a place in "Life and Light."]

AT the Thanksgiving festival which our Mother Board holds this year at Elyria, in the home-bringing, joy-ringing month of all the year, many of her daughters will be gathered. We hope that most of them will be there; but some of those who live far away will not be able to go. So the mother will expect to be remembered by such with a letter telling of their welfare, and how they have prospered during the year just past.

This Yankton daughter who lives "way out West," and cannot go, sends greetings most cordial, and love most dear, to mother and sisters.

You will be glad to hear that our health seems firm, and that we feel sure we have been growing quite strong the year past. Our children are well; that is, most of them. One or two are rather seriously *indisposed*, and have "fallen away" somewhat; but we hope they are out of danger, and will, ere long, recover, and enjoy the robust health characteristic of the family.

It will please the fondest of grandmothers to learn that the oldest daughters of the family are growing in grace and loveliness, and are adding to their faith all those things which the Bible says shall make them "not unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our number has been increased since last you heard from us. The family missionary-box has been opened, and the receipts counted; but, as some members have yet to send in their collections, we are unable to say in this letter how much has been gathered. We hope the result will please our mother when it reaches her. If our benevolent-fund seems deficient this year, you will recall last winter's suffering in consequence of the grasshopper-raid, followed by a spring and summer of suspense, and anxious waiting for returns from another seed-sowing. The good crops of the present year are only just beginning to tell upon the Territory.

We know we are not a brilliant family; but this is our motto: If we must "be frugal in the shows," let us "be generous in

the substances of life." Although we do not dress so finely as our sisters who live in the cities, we hope to live as nobly.

Our social monthly gatherings are well sustained, we think, because of a weekly prayer-meeting that is full of interest. The average monthly attendance has been more than seventeen, — a gain of four over last year; and "Life and Light" counts ten more subscribers than last year, making in all forty-one.

Two of our family were in that great city, Chicago, Oct. 7, and enjoyed very much the woman's meeting.

We trust that some of the inspiration of that meeting was brought back to those remaining at home. An intense longing to do more in the name of Christ was brought back to the Western home: we are sure of that.

On their way to their homes from that meeting, we had the honor of greeting, in Yankton, those devoted heroic missionary ladies, Mrs. A. L. and Mrs. T. L. Riggs.

We believe the Indian missions which they represent are yet to come before the churches with a power of appeal for sympathy and help which shall not be resisted, although they be now the most despised, and the least known, of all missionary fields. May God bring the day quickly, that American Christians be not forever held guilty!

S. F. W.

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### WOMAN'S MISSIONARY MEETING OF EASTERN CONFERENCE, MICHIGAN.

IN response to a call, twice issued during the last six months, to every church within our bounds to send a lady to our missionary meeting, whether they had a society auxiliary to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Interior, or not, we had twenty-five delegates from nineteen different churches, and reports from three churches that could not send delegates. Alpena, though doing so nobly, is shut in by the lakes at this season of the year. Eight churches out of thirty in this conference had no report, except from the Vice-President of our State Branch, who has charge of this conference, and has, by visit or correspondence, learned the exact condition of every church in relation to mission-work. Our meeting was filled to overflowing. An account of all the mission-work done by the churches was given, and suggestions of what ought to be done added for consideration in the evening. The delegates followed with reports of their auxiliaries, or the reasons

why they had not formed societies. Fears and discouragements were talked over, and talked away. Our five new societies were full of zeal; and the older ones, with one or two exceptions, reported great increase of interest.

An opportunity was then given Mrs. Chandler to tell us about life in India, which she did effectively for half an hour.

In the evening, we again met, at half-past six. A report was given of the last afternoon session of the Annual Meeting in Elyria, when children's work was discussed; also Dr. Clark's letter, and the resolution to raise thirty thousand dollars the coming year. The following resolution was then unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the ladies of this conference heartily approve the recommendation adopted by the Board of the Interior at its last Annual Meeting, to do all in their power, through new auxiliaries, and increased percentage in giving, to raise thirty thousand dollars the coming year.

*Resolved*, That, in order to do our part of this increased giving, we will, in addition to work previously undertaken, adopt Miss Pinkerton as our conference-missionary, believing we can fully raise her salary of four hundred and fifty dollars."

Some of the wealthiest churches are already doing all they can; the First Church in Detroit being pledged for five hundred and twelve dollars to the Woman's Board of Missions for the Interior. In Armada, every female in the church and congregation belongs to the missionary society. Still the resolution was courageously adopted, one lady saying, "I will add five dollars to my subscription:" others said, "We will go home, and go to work in earnest."

It was decided, that, in the churches where they cannot keep up an organization, on account of their being scattered, and without pastors, we would try to secure a yearly collection among the ladies, for the Woman's Board of Missions for the Interior, fully believing that these feeble churches will be blessed in giving. Four of them have not more than a dozen members.

At a general missionary meeting held in the evening, it was proposed that the Sunday schools should take up collections this month to pay for Miss Pinkerton's horse, the First Church, Detroit, to pay one-fourth. Several ministers immediately said, "Put our Sunday school down for five dollars:" so we are sure it will all come.

M. R. E.

## RECEIPTS OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE INTERIOR.

FROM NOV. 15, TO DEC 15, 1875.

MRS. FRANCIS BRADLEY, TREASURER.

### OHIO.

<i>Belpre.</i> —Aux., \$21.60; Cong. S.S., \$26.44, for support of pupil in Miss Porter's school, Mrs. W. Armstrong, Treas.,	\$48 04
<i>Cleveland.</i> —Plymouth Ch. Aux., Mrs. J. R. Shipherd, Treas.,	30 00
<i>Gustavus.</i> —Aux.,	7 00
<i>Kent.</i> —Aux., Miss H. A. Converse, Treas.,	15 00
<i>Mt. Vernon.</i> —Young Ladies' Miss Soc., of wh. \$7 is to complete share in Japan Home,	22 00
<i>West Farmington.</i> —Aux., Miss E. O. Page, Treas.,	3 00
Total,	\$134 04

### INDIANA.

<i>Crawfordsville.</i> —Centre Ch. Pres. S. S., for pupil at Marsh,	\$40 00
Total,	\$40 00

### MICHIGAN.

<i>Church's Corners.</i> —Aux., to constitute Mrs. Joshua Davis L. M., Mrs. J. F. Douglass, Treas.,	\$25 00
<i>Morenci.</i> —Aux., Mrs. L. A. Van Antwerp, Treas.,	6 25
<i>Olivet.</i> —Aux., Mrs. A. A. Keyes, Treas.,	22 00
Total,	\$53 25

### ILLINOIS.

<i>Aurora.</i> —New Eng. Ch., Aux., Miss Fannie H. Janes, Treas.,	\$23 50
<i>Chicago.</i> —1st Ch., Aux., for Miss Patrick's salary, \$30.60; 47th-st. Ch., Aux., Mrs. L. C. Purington, Treas., \$27.20,	57 80
<i>Mendota.</i> —Aux., by Mrs. W. Blakeslee,	4 00
<i>Oak Park.</i> —Aux., for support of school at Manissa, Miss Hattie M. Sherman, Treas.,	33 00
<i>Ontario.</i> —Aux., for pupil in Miss Porter's school, and toward constituting Miss A. B. Parsons L. M., Mrs. L. R. Shedd, Treas.,	23 00
<i>Peru.</i> —Aux., Mrs. E. M. Brewster, Treas.,	11 99
<i>Rockford.</i> —1st Ch., Aux., for salary of Miss Diament, Mrs. H. J. Harding, Sec.,	21 10
Total,	\$174 39

### WISCONSIN.

<i>Beloit.</i> —1st Ch., Aux., of wh. \$25 is to const. Mrs. George Bushnell L. M., Mrs. A. L. Chapin, Treas.,	\$44 00
<i>Delavan.</i> —Aux., of which \$12 is for Bible-reader in Madura; \$14 for Japan Home; \$48 for Mrs. Coffing's tours, Mrs. J. Collie, Treas.,	74 00
<i>Fond du Lac.</i> —Aux., for Mrs. Coffing's school, Mrs. W. B. Barber, Treas.,	25 00
<i>Janesville.</i> —Aux., for Japan Home, and to const. Mrs. H. W. Collins L. M., Mrs. H. W. Collins, Sec.,	25 00
<i>Menasha.</i> —Aux., Mrs. A. E. Rounds, Treas.,	7 75
Total,	\$175 75

### IOWA.

<i>Dover.</i> —Miss Ellen D. Atkinson,	\$1 00
<i>New Hampton.</i> —Aux., Mrs. E. F. Powers, Treas.,	6 00
<i>Traer.</i> —Cong. S. S., for Japan Home, Peter Winch, Treas.,	25 00
Total,	\$32 00

### MINNESOTA.

<i>Minneapolis.</i> —Plymouth Ch. S. S., of which \$40 is for pupil in Miss Porter's school, \$40 for support of Miss Taylor of Madura, D. C. Bell, Treas.,	\$80 00
<i>Winona.</i> —Aux., for salary of Miss Van Duzee,	150 00
Total,	\$230 00

### MISSOURI.

<i>St. Louis.</i> —W. B. M., for salary of Miss Anderson, from the Kansas City, Aux., \$23.80; Kidder, Aux., \$5; North Springfield, Aux., to complete L. M. ship of Mrs. J. C. Plumb, \$14, Mrs. N. R. Collins, Treas.,	\$42 80
Total,	\$42 80

### NEBRASKA.

<i>Columbus.</i> —Aux., Mrs. Phebe M. Sparhawk,	\$5 00
<i>Fremont.</i> —Mrs. Heaton,	50
<i>Nebraska City.</i>	3 00
<i>Plymouth.</i> —Mrs. H. Bates,	50
<i>Weeping Water.</i> —Aux.,	13 50
Total,	\$22 50
Total,	\$904 73





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